

SKYLINE WINTER YURT GUIDE

The Skyline yurt is conveniently situated off the groomed Skyline trail, a popular loop used by Nordic skiers and snowshoers. The yurt provides easy access to over 27 miles of groomed and 50 miles of marked ski trails. The yurt is located on a high sunny knob, which provides a 200-degree view to the east, south and west. The view from the yurt is one of the best in the Boise National Forest. From the yurt deck you can see Wolf Mountain, Steele Mountain, Sunset Peak, and Pilot Peak. The open, rolling terrain below the yurt provides beginner telemarkers a chance to polish their skills. Snow is usually available for skiing from December 1 to April 7.

Reservations:

Reservations for stays within IDPR Idaho City Backcountry Yurts can be online at www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov or toll free 1-866-634-3246. Reservations are accepted 9-months in advance of your intended stay and no later than 48-hours prior to your intended arrival. A non-refundable fee of \$6 is assessed at the time your reservation is made. All fees must be paid in advance of your stay.

Yurts are reserved from 2 p.m. the day of your reservation until 1 p.m. the following afternoon. The maximum length of stay in the same yurt is 5 days.

Difficulty:

Advanced beginner to intermediate. The difficulty of touring trails can increase in poor snow conditions and weather. Skiers can expect short, steep sections of trail to herringbone up. Climbing skins are recommended for those with heavy packs. Individuals should be thoroughly prepared and travel with someone who has been to the yurt and can readily find it. The Skyline trail is generally groomed on Thursday or Friday from December 1 to March 15. You should not count on the trail being groomed, but a freshly groomed trail will substantially reduce the amount of energy necessary to get to the yurt.

Where to Park:

The Gold Fork Park N' Ski parking lot is 20 miles north of Idaho City on Highway 21. An Idaho Park N'Ski permit is required to park here Nov 15th to Apr 30th. Please park your vehicles close together and parallel to the side of the lot, south of the toilet. You should also bring a shovel because you might have to dig your car out in case of heavy snow. Do not park on Highway 21.

How to Get to the Yurt:

The trails are marked with blue and yellow diamond shapes, called blazes, attached to trees. The recommended approach to the yurt is to take the Summit trail to the first intersection of Skyline/Summit trails intersection, about 0.5 miles from road, stay to the left on the Skyline trail. Follow the blue blazes on Skyline trail for about 1.2 miles to the Skyline/Ralph's trails' intersection, where you will see a sign for summer yurt parking. Continue on Skyline trail for about .3 miles

crossing the highest point of the trail. Immediately upon descending on the trail, you should see a 4x4 wooden post with large 2'-yellow sign on it. From here, follow the smaller 4" yellow blazes west and up the hill about 200 yards to the yurt. The yurt sits on the highest point in the area. **You cannot see the yurt from the signpost.**

Elevation Gain and Distance:

About a 690 foot rise over 2.0 miles (one-way). There are a few short steep sections.

Water:

The nearest creek water is about 1/2 mile away and is not easily accessible in the winter. Your best bet is to use the large pot provided to melt snow on the wood stove. We recommend boiling the water for 10 minutes before using.

Wood Pile:

Wood for the stove is located under the yurt entry deck. You may have to dig your way to the wood pile.

Special Equipment Needed:

Several members of the party should carry portable snow shovels.

Maps Needed:

Idaho City Area Yurt and Trail System, USFS Forest Road, and USGS 7.5 minute topographic, "Lowman and Big Owl Creek."

Global Positioning System Locations

UTM (in NAD 83 Projection):

Gold Fork Parking Lot: 11T0611769 481929

Skyline Yurt: 11T 0612807 4872351

Lat/Long (in NAD 83 Projection):

Gold Fork Parking Lot: 43.992/-115.606

Skyline Yurt: 43.995/-115.593

Altitudes:

Gold Fork Parking Lot: 5,226 feet

Skyline Yurt: 5,914 feet

WARNING:

Winter travel and the use of the yurt can be dangerous. Do not undertake yurt trips without careful preparation and a serious discussion of the dangers with ALL members of your group.

**PLEASE, DO NOT FEED ANY WILD ANIMALS. IT CAN
LEAD TO THE ANIMALS CHEWING OR TEARING THE
YURT SKIN**